

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 /082 W
-----150950Z 087132 /12

R 150814Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5730
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2656

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS
SUBJECT: PERES' COMMENTS ON DOMESTIC SITUATION

(THIS MESSAGE WAS NOT CLEARED BY SENATOR MATHIAS)

1. DURING HIS MEETING WITH SENATOR MATHIAS APRIL 14
SHIMON PERES MADE SEVERAL POINTS ABOUT THE DOMESTIC
SITUATION. (HIS COMMENTS ON THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM
ARE CONTAINED IN A SEPTTEL).

2. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE CHIEF OPPOSITION
PARTY, THE LIKUD, WAS LED BY A "GREAT MAN," MENACHEM
BEGIN. IN ESSENCE, BEGIN WAS THE LIKUD. HIS RECENT
HEART ATTACK HAS GREATLY COMPLICATED THE SITUATION
OF THAT PARTY, AND PERES SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT
WOULD HAPPEN TO THE LIKUD IF BEGIN COULD NOT PARTICI-
PATE ACTIVELY IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. BEGIN'S
LOYQL ROLLOWERS WOULD PROBABLY VOTE FOR HIM OUT OF
SYMPATHY IN ANY CASE.

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3. AS TO THE RELIGIOUS PARTIES, THEY HAD RECENTLY
UNDERGONE CHANGES. THE NET RESULT WAS TO MOVE THEM
INTO MORE HAWKISH POSITIONS.

4. THE DMC OF YIGAEI YADIN WAS, PERES SAID, AN UN-
KNOWN QUANTITY AND HE WAS NOT ABLE TO PREDICT HOW
IT WOULD COME OUT.

5. AS REGARDS HIS OWN LABOR PARTY, PERES SAID IT HAD ALSO CHANGED BECAUSE OF THE COMING OF AGE OF A YOUNGER GENERATION. IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT OVER FIFTY PERCENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET LIST FOR THE LABOR PARTY HAD BEEN BORN IN ISRAEL.

6. MORE BROADLY, PERES SAID IT WAS NOT JUST A MATTER OF WHICH PARTIES CAME OUT ON TOP BUT ALSO OF HOW VARIOUS PARTIES COULD BE PUT TOGETHER IN A COALITION. THIS HE FORESAW WOULD BE A "TOUGH JOB."

7. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THERE WERE SOME VERY REAL AND PRESSING PROBLEMS. THE FIRST ONE WHICH ANY GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO FACE WOULD BE THE PROBLEM OF CONTAINING INFLATION. THE PRESENT SITUATION IN ISRAEL SEEMED TO DISPROVE THE TRUTH OF THE OLD FABLE BECAUSE HERE THE GRASSHOPPER WAS MAKING ALL THE MONEY, NOT THE HARD-WORKING ANT* ANOTHER PROBLEM WOULD BE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MANY CHANGES (UNSPECIFIED) AS A RESULT OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED RECENTLY IN THE LABOR PARTY - "CLOSE TO A REVOLUTION."

8. COMMENT: WHILE PERES DID NOT REVEAL WHAT THESE "CHANGES" MIGHT BE, HE HAS INDICATED IN THE PAST THAT HE FEELS THE PARTY NEEDS BOTH REJUVENATION AND DEMOCRATIZATION. CARRYING THESE OUT IN PRACTICE WILL NOT BE SO EASY BECAUSE THE ENTRENCHED ESTABLISHMENT IS FAIRLY FORMIDABLE. IT IS ALSO NOT CLEAR HOW

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EFFECTIVE PERES WILL BE IN REGAINING CONTROL OF THE ECONOMY - INFLATION, WAGES, PUBLIC SPENDING, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS - PARTICULARLY SINCE ANY GOVERNMENT HE MIGHT FORM WOULD BE A COALITION OF PARTIES WITH VARYING INTERESTS AND CONSTITUENCIES.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, IS, (PERES, SHIMON)
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